(ii) Subsidy/concession is given to the controlled nitrogenous fertilizer (urea) as well as to the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertizers, so as to increase their balanced consumption.

(iii) Use of integrated nutrients/micro-nutrients through chemical fertilizers and organic sources like bio-fertilizers, compost/ vermi-compost is being encouraged so as to maintain soil fertility and make cheaper source of plant nutrients available to the crops.

(d) There is no data available to confirm that the farmers in India get fertilizers on lowest subsidy in comparison to their counterparts in the other countries of the world.

Reduction in price control span of drugs

940. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced reduction in price control span on certain category of drugs;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's mechanism to ensure that prices of essential drugs do not increase exorbitantly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002". The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the National Essential Drug List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.